

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 9 are the only independent claims.

Restriction Requirement

Claims 1-19 stand subject to a Restriction Requirement according to which the Examiner has divided the claims into two groups, namely, Group I including claims 1-8 purportedly directed to a multi-layer tube and Group II containing claims 9-19 allegedly drawn to a method of forming an elongate article.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, applicant hereby provisionally elects the claims of Group I, i.e., claims 1-8, for continued prosecution in the application.

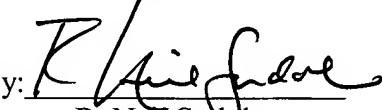
The election is made with traverse on the grounds that the claims clearly comply with the unity of invention requirements under PCT Rules 13(1) and 13(2). Pursuant to those rules, unity of invention exists where there is a technical relationship among the inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding “special technical features” defining a contribution over the prior art. In the present case, such “special technical features” are set forth in the language “said increased thickness is (made) substantially constant along the whole extension of said longitudinal portions and the thickness increase is non-linear towards the free end of said longitudinal portions.” This language is common to both independent claims 1 and 9.

It is to be noted in this regard that neither the International Searching Authority nor the International Preliminary Examination Authority made an objection of lack of unity of invention during the international phase of the present application. Applicant respectfully submits that these organizations have considerable expertise in deciding questions of unity of invention under the PCT rules.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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